

NEWS RELEASE

PLEASE NOTE DATE



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Washington 25, D. C.

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FOR THE PRESS

November 8, 1962
5:40 p.m.

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY SYLVESTER

The U. S. Government has confirmed, through aerial reconnaissance, that Medium Range Ballistic Missile and Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile equipment is being removed from Cuba. Within the next 24 hours it expects to obtain additional confirmation through the close alongside observation of Soviet vessels by U. S. naval vessels. It is understood Soviet vessels will cooperate in this procedure.

As a result of aerial reconnaissance, the U. S. has photographs which indicate that all known MRBM and IRBM missile bases in Cuba have been dismantled. Later photographs indicate the movement of significant items of equipment from the missile sites to port areas. Still later photographs give evidence that a substantial number of missile transporters have been loaded onto

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the main decks of certain Soviet cargo vessels and that several of these vessels have already departed Cuban ports. Photographs and visual inspection from U. S. naval vessels should provide further confirmation that the actual missiles (normally carried in the missile transporters that have been photographed on board these vessels) have left Cuba.

Intensive discussions are continuing with respect to the other provisions of the understanding between President Kennedy and Chairman Khrushchev.

DRAFT FOLLOWS

November 8, 1962

DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

The U. S. Government has confirmed, through aerial reconnaissance, that Medium Range Ballistic Missile and Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile equipment is being removed from Cuba in partial fulfillment of the commitment made by Chairman Khrushchev to President Kennedy. Beginning today, it expects to obtain additional confirmation through the close alongside observation of Soviet vessels by U. S. naval vessels. ~~Soviet vessels are cooperating in this~~ ^{understand} ~~procedure, that Soviet vessels will cooperate in this procedure.~~

As a result of aerial reconnaissance, the U. S. has photographs which indicate that all known MRBM and IRBM missile bases in Cuba have been dismantled. Later photographs indicate the movement of significant items of equipment from the missile sites to port areas. Still later photographs give evidence that a substantial number of ~~missile~~ missile transporters have been loaded onto the main decks of certain Soviet cargo vessels and that several of these vessels have already departed Cuban ports. Photographs and visual inspection from U. S. naval vessels will provide further confirmation that the actual missiles (normally carried in the missile transporters that have been photographed on board these vessels) have left Cuba.

Intensive discussions are continuing with respect to the other provisions of ~~the commitment~~. ~~These are being hampered by the refusal thus far of the Cuban Government to cooperate with the United Nations in order that it may carry out the necessary measures of verification and establish safeguards against the reintroduction of offensive weapons.~~

*The understanding between
Chairman Khrushchev and
President Kennedy.*

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DRAFT FOLLOWS

The United States Government is in possession of the following information relating to MRBM and IRBM equipment placed in Cuba:

(1) Through aerial reconnaissance it has been determined that all/IRBM and MRBM sites in Cuba have been dismantled.

(2) Through aerial reconnaissance it has been ascertained that this equipment has been moved to ^{several} ~~a number of~~ Cuban ports, particularly Mariel and Casilda where it has been loaded on nine Soviet ships which are now underway from Cuba and sailing in the direction of the Soviet Union.

Photos of the dismantled sites have previously been made available by the United States government. Concurrent with the issuance of this release this Government is making available low-level reconnaissance photographs following the assembly and loading of missile equipment and missiles aboard Soviet ships in the Mariel and Casilda ports.

Through arrangements worked out between the United States and the Soviet governments verification of the outgoing shipment of missiles and missile equipment have been made by the United States naval vessels at a point some 400 miles northeast of Cuba.

The first such intercept was made at 3:30 p.m., EST, today when the USS PERRY, a naval destroyer, went alongside the cargo ship VOLGOLES and established the placement of seven ~~missile~~ missiles on the deck of that ship. Photographs were taken by Navy personnel and they will be released as soon as they are flown to the United States.

In addition the Defense Department has made provisions for flying a limited number of newsmen to U.S. ^{Navy} ships in the Caribbean later tonight for further observation of naval intercepts during the day tomorrow. These reporters and photographers will act as a pool for the American and foreign press.

Intensive discussions are continuing in New York with respect to other provisions of the understanding. These include failure to dismantle a ~~minimum~~ number of IL-28 medium-range bombers which have been assembled at the St. Julian ~~Military~~ Airfield in western Cuba. Further discussions on ~~the~~ the U.S.-Soviet understanding are being hampered by the refusal thusfar of the Cuban government to cooperate with the United Nations in order that it may carry out the necessary measures for verification and establish safeguards against reintroduction of offensive weapons.

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As a result of aerial reconnaissance, the U. S. has photographs which indicate that all known MRBM and IRBM missile bases in Cuba have been dismantled. Later photographs indicate the movement of significant items of equipment from the missile sites to port areas. Still later photographs give evidence that a substantial number of missile transporters have been loaded onto the main decks of certain Soviet cargo vessels and that several of these vessels have already departed Cuban ports. Photographs and visual inspection from U. S. naval vessels will provide further confirmation that the actual missiles (normally carried in the missile transporters that have been photographed on board these vessels) have left Cuba.

Intensive discussions are continuing with respect to the other provisions of the commitment. These are being hampered by the refusal thus far of the Cuban Government to cooperate with the United Nations in order that it may carry out the necessary measures of verification.

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